

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04662 151411Z

47

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25 DRC-01

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P R 151330Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3547

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 4662

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ITRN, IS

SUBJ: CIVAIR--CANCELLATION OF TWA SERVICES

REF: TEL AVIV 4617

1. AS OF MORNING OF AUGUST 15 EL AL IS ONLY AIRLINE
FLYING FROM ISRAEL. TWA PLANES (ONE 47 AND ONE 707)
ARE STILL ON GROUND. AIR FRANCE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT
WILL TAKE ITS PLANES OUT WITH PASSENGERS USING SPECIAL
EL AL ROUTE SOUTH OF CYPRUS BUT TWA IS SKEPTICAL THAT
IT WILL ACTUALLY DO SO.

2. COMMENT FROM GOI OFFICIALS AND PRESS HAS SO FAR BEEN
CONSIDERABLY MORE MODERATE THAN DURING CYPRUS FIGHTING THREE
WEEKS AGO. THIS TIME ONLY OBJECTIONABLE STATEMENT WAS
MADE BY MANAGER OF BEN-GURION AIRPORT WHO STATED PUBLICLY
THAT EL AL ROUTE IS "SAFE AND THAT IT SHOULD BE USED
BY FOREIGN AIRLINES TO MAINTAIN THEIR REGULAR FLIGHTS".
TWA MANAGER CALLED HIM LATER AND SAID THAT TWA COULD FLY
ONLY THOSE ROUTES APPROVED BY USG. WE WERE ALSO INFORMED
THAT EL AL HAS OFFERED ITS ASSISTANCE TO TWA WITH VIEW
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 04662 151411Z

OF AVOIDING ADVERSE PUBLIC RELATIONS.

3. IN COURSE OF SPEECH TO KNESSET AUGUST 14 ON GENERAL
TRANSPORT QUESTIONS, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT YAAKOBI CONFIRMED
THAT BEN-GURION AIRPORT MANAGER HAD RECOMMENDED TO FOREIGN
AIRLINES THAT THEY FOLLOW EL AL'S EXAMPLE AND USE SPECIAL
ROUTE ACROSS MEDITERRANEAN. HE ADDED THAT "EL AL MUST CONTINUE
TO GROW, FOR BOTH NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS. EL AL
HAS PREPARED A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DESIGNED TO DOUBLE ITS
PRESENT CAPACITY IN TERMS OF FLIGHT EQUIPMENT BY 1980."
YAAKOBI WENT ON TO MENTION A NUMBER OF CONSIDERATIONS SUPPORT-
ING THIS POLICY. AMONG THESE HE STRESSED "ISRAEL'S
GEOPOLITICAL ISOLATION, AS WELL AS THE DISRUPTION OF
FOREIGN AIRLINE SCHEDULES DURING INTERNATIONAL CRISES -
AS WITNESS THE RECENT CESSATION OF REGULAR FLIGHTS BY FOREIGN
AIRLINES TO AND FROM ISRAEL DURING THE CYPRUS FIGHTING."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV04662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740224-0866
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740843/aaaabkuo.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEL AVIV 4617
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR--CANCELLATION OF TWA SERVICES
TAGS: ETRN, EAIR, IS, US, TWA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005